

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02
FAA-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-05 H-01 PM-04 /072 W
-----080755Z 110624 /17

R 080530Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7763
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 4366

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, CY, TU, ICAO, US
SUBJECT: NORTHERN CYPRUS AIRSPACE ISSUE

REF: (A) ANKARA 3386 (DTG 040945Z MAY 77), (B) STATE 121843
(DTG 261828Z MAY 77), (C) MONTREAL 755, (D) MONTREAL 768

1. OWING TO ABSENCE OF MFA OFFICIAL OF APPROPRIATE LEVEL,
DEMARCHE PER INSTRUCTIONS IN REF B HAD TO BE DELAYED UNTIL
JUNE 6, WHEN EMBOFFS CALLED ON MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
AFFAIRS DIRECTOR SOYLEMEZ.

2. DRAWING ON REFS B, C, AND D, EMBOFFS REITERATED
US CONCERN THAT SAFETY PROBLEM HAS RESULTED FROM IRREGULARLY
ESTABLISHED ERCAN CONTROL CENTER, AND ASKED THAT SOYLEMEZ
CHECK THE RECORDS AS TO WHAT ICAO PRESIDENT KOTAITE HAD
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ACTUALLY TOLD TURKS REGARDING ICAO POSITON. EMBOFFS ALSO
POINTED OUT THAT US IS PUBLISHING NOTAM ON MATTER (REF B),
AND ADDED PERSONAL OPINION THAT GOT HAS AN INTEREST IN
PRESERVING AIR ACCESS FROM MEDITERRANEAN.

3. SOYLEMEZ REJECTED THESE POINTS-REPEATING HIS ANSWER TO
DCM'S MAY 4 DEMARCHE (REF A) FOR WHICH HE SAID HE HAD HIGH-

LEVEL SUPPORT. HE REITERATED THAT THE PROBLEM HAS SOLVED ITSELF BECAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE. THE SETTING UP OF THE ERCAN SERVICE WAS A CORRECT ACTION WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN MUCH EARLIER AND WAS NOT POLITICAL. THE SOLE REASON FOR IT HAD BEEN THE "SAFETY VACUUM" RESULTING FROM THE SUSPENSION OF REGULAR AIR CONTROL SERVICES FOR NORTHERN CYPRUS AIRSPACE AFTER TURKEY'S 1974 CYPRUS OPERATION. NORTHERN CYPRUS IS NOT A PROBLEM -- ONLY THE ALASIA TRAINGLE IS, HE STATED, ADDING THAT THE ALASIA PROBLEM COULD EASILY BE SOLVED BY SETTING UP A TELEPHONE LINK WITH "ONLY A FEW METERS OF CABLE" CONNECTING THE TURKISH CYPRIOT AND GREEK CYPRIOT CONTROL CENTERS.

4. SOYLEMEZ STATED THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY BEEN PRESENT AT THE MEETING WITH KOTAITE AT WHICH THE TURKISH CASE HAD BEEN PRESENTED; AND ALTHOUGH KOTAITE MADE PRO FORMA OBJECTIONS TO UNILATERAL ACTION, HE NEITHER REACTED STRONGLY AGAINST THE TURKISH PRESENTATION NOR SERIOUSLY DISPUTED IT. SOYLEMEZ ALSO SAID THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD MET WITH KOTAITE TWICE, ONCE FOR OVER AN HOUR AND AGAIN FOR TWO AND A HALF HOURS, AND HAD GIVEN HIM A GREAT DEAL OF INFORMATION -- ALL APPARENTLY NEW TO KOTAITE -- ON THE DEGREE OF ACCEPTANCE AND USAGE OF ERCAN'S SERVICES BY AIR TRAFFIC AND BY GREEK CYPRIOT AIR CONTROLLERS. SOYLEMEZ SAID THAT, TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, THERE HAD NEVER BEEN ANY FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS OR TELEGRAMS FROM ICAO ON THIS ISSUE, ALTHOUGH HE SAID HE WOULD CHECK THE FILES TO MAKE SURE ON THIS POINT. SOYLEMEZ SAID THAT IF KOTAITE IS TAKING ANOTHER LINE NOW, "I WOULD BE INCLINED TO THINK THERE HAS BEEN PRESSURE ON HIM."

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5. WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE US NOTAM, SOYLEMEZ SAID "IF YOU DON'T WANT TO FLY TO TURKEY, DON'T FLY. THIS WILL BE YOUR PROBLEM." SOYLEMEZ ALSO WARNED THAT IF THE NOTAM IS BEING BROUGHT UP "AS A POLITICAL REPRESENTATION," THEN "IT WILL HAVE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS." EMBOFFS MADE CLEAR THAT PRIMARY US CONSIDERATION WAS SAFETY, POINTED OUT THAT QUESTION OF US AIR ACCESS TO TURKEY WAS AS IMPORTANT TO TURKEY AS TO THE US., AND URGED THAT GOT MAKE NEW EFFORTS TO COME TO AGREEMENT WITH ICAO. SOYLEMEZ SAID THAT, SINCE HAD HAD JUST RETURNED TO HIS OFFICE, HE WAS NOT FULLY UP TO DATE, AND WOULD LET US KNOW IF THERE WERE ANY CHANGE IN THE GOT POSITION HE HAD CONVEYED TO THE DCM EARLIER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, DEMARCHE, AIRSPACE, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ANKARA04366
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770203-1129
Format: TEL
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770680/aaaacsfg.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 79153a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ANKARA 3386, 77 STATE 121843
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2240159
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NORTHERN CYPRUS AIRSPACE ISSUE
TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, CY, TU, US, ICAO, (SOYLEMEZ, YUKSEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/79153a83-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009